twelve and one, e'en at turning o* the tide[5]: for
after I saw him fumble with the sheets[6], and play

• and they do awe

"The *chrysome* babe."

Again, and more appositely, in his Albovine, 1629 : " Sir, I would fain depart in quiet, like other young *chrysomes*" Again, in Your Five Gallants, by Middleton : ' — a fine old man to his father, it would kill his heart i' faith : *he'd away likeachrysom*"

STEEVENS.

In the Liturgy, 2 E VI. Form of Private Baptism, is this direction: " Then the minister shall put the white vesture, commonly called the *chrysome*, upon the child," &c. The Glossary of Du Cange, vide *Chrismale*, explains this ceremony thus: *c Quippe olim ut et hodie, baptizatorum> statim atque chrismate in fronte ungebantur, ne chrisma deilueret, capita panno candido* obvolvebantur, qui octava demum die ab iis auferebatur." During the time therefore of their wearing this vesture, the children were, I suppose, called *chrisomes*. One is registered under this description in the register of Thatcham, Berks, 1605. (Hearne's Appendix to the History of Glastonbury, p. 275.) A younge cmowze being a *man child*, beinge found drowned," &c.

TYRWHITT.

The *chrisom* is properly explained as the white garment put upon the child at its baptism. And this the child wore till the time the mother came to be churched, who was then to offer it to the minister. So that, truly speaking, a *chrisom child* was one that died after it had been baptized, and before its mother was churched. Erroneously, however, it was used for children that die before they are baptized: and by this denomination such children were entered in the bills of mortality down to the year 1726. But have I not seen, in some edition, *christom* child ? If that reading were supported by any copy of authority, I should like it much. It agrees better with my dame's enunciation, who was not very likely to pronounce a hard word with propriety, and who just before had called *Abraham*—Arthur.

WHALLEY.

Mr. Whalley is right in his conjecture. The first folio reads—christom. Blount, in his Glossography, 1678, says, that *chrisoms* in the bills of mortality are such children as die within the month of birth, because during that time they use to wear

the *chrisom** *cloth.* MALONE.

s — turning o' the tide:] It has been a very old opinion, which Mead, *de imperio solis*, quotes, as if he believed it, that nobody dies but in the time of ebb: half the deaths in London confute the notion: but we find that it was common among the women of the poet's time. JOHNSON.

[6] — fumble with the sheets.] This passage is burlesqued by Beaumont and Fletcher, in The Captain;